

Message Text

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ACTION EA-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 PA-01 INR-01 /005 W

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO USINFO WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4064

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

DEPT OF DEFENSE WASHDC

UNCLAS VIENTIANE 3733

USIA FOR IPS, IBS, CENTRAL NEWS DESK AND LAO SERVICE, IEA/L,
IOP/G, STATE FOR EA/P, EA/LC, S/PRS, BANGKOK FOR VOA AND PAO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS, PINT, LA

SUBJECT: USINFO

1. NEGOTIATIONS CONTINUED TODAY BETWEEN OFFICIALS OF THE AMERICAN MISSION AND THE COALITION GOVERNMENT OVER THE CONTINUED OCCUPATION BY PROTESTORS OF THE EMBASSY COMPOUND IN WHICH THE USAID ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS ARE LOCATED. CHARGE CHRISTIAN A CHAPMAN AND USAID ACTING DIRECTOR GORDON RAMSEY MET THIS MORNING WITH PREMIER SOUVANNA PHOUMA; FOREIGN MINISTER AND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER PHOUMI VONGVICHIT; AND MINISTER OF THE ECONOMY SOTH PETHRASY, WHO IS ALSO HEAD OF THE PATHET LAO DELEGATION TO THE JOINT CENTRAL COMMISSION TO IMPLEMENT THE ACCORDS (JCCIA). LATER, SOTH MET WITH PROTESTORS AT THE USAID COMPOUND.

NO RESULTS OF THE MEETING WERE ANNOUNCED, BUT SOME PROGRESS WAS MADE. US OFFICIALS MAINTAIN THEY CANNOT BEGIN WORK TO TERMINATE THE USAID PROGRAM, NEGOTIATE A BASIS FOR US ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, OR PAY LAO EMPLOYEES OF USAID UNTIL THE COMPOUND IS RETURNED TO THEM.

AN AGREEMENT WITH FORMER WATCHMEN OF THE NOW-DISSOLVED
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TRANS AIR PROTECTIVE SERVICE (TAPS) LAO DIVISION HAS

BEEN REACHED. IN A MOVE TO AVERT DAMAGE TO AMERICAN
INSTALLATIONS AND RESIDENCES AS WELL AS DEMONSTRATIONS BY
THE FORMER TAPS EMPLOYEES, THE COMPANY AGREED TO TERMS
MUCH MORE GENEROUS THAN THE LAO LABOR CODE REQUIRES. THE
EMPLOYEES WILL RECEIVE THEIR SEVERANCE PAY WEDNESDAY AT
THE LAO LAO LABOR FEDERATION BUILDING.

MORE MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN MISSION COMMUNITY LEFT
TODAY VIA REGULARLY SCHEDULED FLIGHTS AND BY SURFACE.
EXACT FIGURES ARE AVAILABLE STATE CHANNELS.
PATE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS, EMERGENCY EVACUATION, LABOR DISPUTES, NEGOTIATIONS, CLOSURE OF OFFICES, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975VIENTI03733
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750184-0290
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750518/aaaaapqk.tel
Line Count: 72
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 JUL 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <30 JAN 2004 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: USINFO
TAGS: EAID, PINS, ELAB, AEMR, LA, US, AID, (SOUVANNA PHOUMA), (PHOUMI VONGVICHIT), (SOTH PHETRASY), (RAMSEY, GORDON), (CHAPMAN, CHRISTIAN A)
To: USINFO WASHDC NIACT
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006